



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 8**

February Session, 2016

Substitute Senate Bill No. 68

*Senate, March 8, 2016*

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. GERRATANA of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPIST ASSOCIATES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-195b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

3 (a) Except as provided in section 20-195f, no person shall practice  
4 marital and family therapy unless he or she is licensed in accordance  
5 with the provisions of section 20-195c, as amended by this act.

6 (b) No person shall use the title "licensed marital and family  
7 therapist" or "licensed marital and family therapist associate" unless he  
8 or she is licensed in accordance with the provisions of section 20-195c,  
9 as amended by this act.

10 Sec. 2. Section 20-195c of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes  
11 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
12 *October 1, 2016*):

13 (a) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist  
14 shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that such  
15 applicant has: (1) Completed a graduate degree program specializing  
16 in marital and family therapy [from] offered by a regionally accredited  
17 college or university or an accredited postgraduate clinical training  
18 program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage  
19 and Family Therapy Education offered by a regionally accredited  
20 institution of higher education; (2) completed a supervised practicum  
21 or internship with emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised  
22 by the program granting the requisite degree or by an accredited  
23 postgraduate clinical training program, accredited by the Commission  
24 on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, offered  
25 by a regionally accredited institution of higher education in which the  
26 student received a minimum of five hundred direct clinical hours that  
27 included one hundred hours of clinical supervision; (3) completed a  
28 minimum of twelve months of relevant postgraduate experience,  
29 including at least (A) one thousand hours of direct client contact  
30 offering marital and family therapy services subsequent to being  
31 awarded a master's degree or doctorate or subsequent to the training  
32 year specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and (B) one  
33 hundred hours of postgraduate clinical supervision provided by a  
34 licensed marital and family therapist; and (4) passed an examination  
35 prescribed by the department. The fee shall be three hundred fifteen  
36 dollars for each initial application.

37 (b) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist  
38 associate shall present to the department (1) satisfactory evidence that  
39 such applicant has (A) completed a graduate degree program  
40 specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally  
41 accredited college or university, or an accredited postgraduate clinical  
42 training program, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for  
43 Marriage and Family Therapy Education, offered by a regionally  
44 accredited institution of higher education, and (B) passed an  
45 examination prescribed by the department; and (2) verification from a  
46 supervising licensed marital and family therapist that the applicant is  
47 working toward completing the postgraduate experience required for

48 licensure as a marital and family therapist under subdivision (3) of  
49 subsection (a) of this section. The fee shall be one hundred twenty-five  
50 dollars for each initial application.

51 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) The department may grant licensure without examination,  
52 subject to payment of fees with respect to the initial application, to any  
53 applicant who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage  
54 and family therapist or a marital and family therapist associate in  
55 another state, territory or commonwealth of the United States,  
56 provided such state, territory or commonwealth maintains licensure or  
57 certification standards which, in the opinion of the department, are  
58 equivalent to or higher than the standards of this state. No license shall  
59 be issued under this section to any applicant against whom  
60 professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an  
61 unresolved complaint.

62 ~~[(c) Licenses issued]~~ (d) (1) A license issued to a marital and family  
63 therapist under this section may be renewed annually in accordance  
64 with the provisions of section 19a-88, as amended by this act. The fee  
65 for such renewal shall be three hundred twenty dollars.

66 (2) Each licensed marital and family therapist applying for license  
67 renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of  
68 having participated in continuing education programs. The  
69 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,  
70 to ~~[(1)]~~ (A) define basic requirements for continuing education  
71 programs, which shall include not less than one contact hour of  
72 training or education each registration period on the topic of cultural  
73 competency and, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two  
74 contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period  
75 in which continuing education is required and not less than once every  
76 six years thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to  
77 veterans and family members of veterans, including ~~[(A)]~~ (i)  
78 determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a  
79 veteran, ~~[(B)]~~ (ii) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress  
80 disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and ~~[(C)]~~ (iii) suicide

81 prevention training, [(2)] (B) delineate qualifying programs, [(3)] (C)  
82 establish a system of control and reporting, and [(4)] (D) provide for  
83 waiver of the continuing education requirement for good cause.

84 (3) A license issued to a marital and family therapist associate shall  
85 expire on or before thirty-six months after the date on which such  
86 license was issued and may be renewed once for an additional thirty-  
87 six months in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88, as  
88 amended by this act. The fee for such renewal shall be two hundred  
89 twenty dollars.

90 (4) Each licensed marital and family therapist associate applying for  
91 license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner  
92 of working toward completing the postgraduate experience required  
93 for licensure as a marital and family therapist under subdivision (3) of  
94 subsection (a) of this section and the potential for successful  
95 completion of such experience prior to the expiration of the thirty-six-  
96 month renewal period.

97 [(d)] (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an applicant  
98 who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and  
99 family therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the  
100 United States that does not maintain standards for licensure or  
101 certification that are equivalent to or higher than the standards in this  
102 state may substitute three years of licensed or certified work  
103 experience in the practice of marital and family therapy, as defined in  
104 section 20-195a, in lieu of the requirements of subdivisions (2) and (3)  
105 of subsection (a) of this section.

106 Sec. 3. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 19a-88 of the 2016  
107 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
108 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

109 (e) (1) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under  
110 section 19a-514, 20-65k, 20-74s, 20-195cc or 20-206ll and chapters 370 to  
111 373, inclusive, 375, 378 to 381a, inclusive, 383 to 383c, inclusive, 384,  
112 384a, 384b, 384d, 385, 393a, 395, 399 or 400a and section 20-206n or 20-

113 206o shall, annually, or, in the case of a person holding a license as a  
 114 marital and family therapist associate under section 20-195c, as  
 115 amended by this act, on or before thirty-six months after the date of  
 116 initial licensure, during the month of such person's birth, apply for  
 117 renewal of such license or certificate to the Department of Public  
 118 Health, giving such person's name in full, such person's residence and  
 119 business address and such other information as the department  
 120 requests.

121 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 20-206oo of the 2016 supplement to  
 122 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
 123 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

124 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health may adopt regulations in  
 125 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to carry out the  
 126 provisions of subdivision (24) of subsection (c) of section 19a-14,  
 127 subsection (e) of section 19a-88, as amended by this act, subsection (b)  
 128 of section 20-9, subsection [(c)] (d) of section 20-195c, as amended by  
 129 this act, sections 20-195aa to 20-195ff, inclusive, and sections 20-206jj to  
 130 20-206oo, inclusive.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	20-195b
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	20-195c
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	19a-88(e)(1)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	20-206oo(a)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

Section 4, which changes the reference from "subsection (c) of section 20-195c" to "subsection (d) of section 20-195c", was added to the bill for accuracy and consistency with section 2.

**PH** Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 17 \$</b>	<b>FY 18 \$</b>
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	10,060	12,620
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	17,000	12,750

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

#### **Explanation**

The bill results in a net state revenue gain of \$6,940 in FY 17 and \$130 in FY 18 from the establishment of a new "Marriage and Family Therapist Associate" (MFTA) licensure category within the Department of Public Health (DPH).

The approximate \$10,060 cost to DPH in FY 17 reflects expenditures for a processing technician contractor (\$8,160), equipment (computer, software, and scanner - \$1,700), and associated other expenses (printing, postage, and office supplies - \$200). General Fund (GF) revenue of approximately \$17,000 is also anticipated that fiscal year from initial licensure application fees at \$125 per application. Detail on the assumptions that underpin these cost and revenue estimates is provided in the "Assumptions" section below.

### **ASSUMPTIONS**

On average, 68 people are annually granted initial Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) licenses, based on the past three complete calendar years (2013 through 2015). In FY 17, it is assumed that twice that many MFT graduates and post-graduates will seek MFTA licensure (136). The following fiscal year, one and a half times as many

people as the average are anticipated (102) to apply. A processing technician contractor cost of approximately \$30 an hour, and a compliant investigation contractor cost of \$100 per hour, is used for the purposes of this fiscal note. It is assumed that initial licensure will require an average of 2 hours to process, and renewals will require one hour, on average.

Complaints are not anticipated in the first fiscal year of partial implementation of the new licensure category. Between 1983 and 2015, less than one MFT incurred a disciplinary action each year. Using this average for the MFTA population, roughly one MFTA will incur a disciplinary action annually. It is assumed that there are three complaints for every disciplinary action incurred. A contractor cost of \$5,400 in FY 18 is based on 18 hours, on an average, for complaint investigation and resolution, at a contractor cost of \$100 an hour.

### ***The Out Years***

#### ***State Impact:***

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	9,894	10,934	9,894
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	8,750	13,238	8,750

Note: GF=General Fund

#### ***Municipal Impact:*** None

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of initial and renewal MFTA licenses issued by the agency, and the associated costs (a 2% cost inflation is anticipated). In the out years, approximately 70 individuals are anticipated to seek MFTA licensure (an increase of 2%, or approximately two individuals, in each fiscal year). This would result in a GF revenue gain of \$8,750 annually from fees for initial licenses. As licenses are valid for 36 months, renewals would not be necessary for individuals that are licensed in FY 17 until FY 20. It is anticipated that the majority of graduates and post-graduates will complete the requirements necessary for MFT licensure in two years. Therefore, it is assumed that approximately 85% of MFTA will become licensed as MFT before they need to renew. Hence, approximately 20

renewals are anticipated in FY 20 for an additional \$4,488 in GF revenue that fiscal year.

Sources: *Public Hearing Testimony (2/16/16)*  
*The State of Connecticut eLicensing Website*



**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 68*****AN ACT CONCERNING MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPIST ASSOCIATES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill creates an interim licensure category for marital and family therapist (MFT) associates working toward MFT licensure. It (1) establishes educational, testing, and other requirements for licensure and (2) recognizes MFT associate licenses from other jurisdictions under certain conditions. The MFT associate license is valid for three years. It costs \$125 and may be renewed once for \$220.

The bill makes other technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016

**INITIAL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS**

To obtain an MFT associate license, an applicant must have:

1. completed a (a) graduate degree program specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally accredited college or university or (b) postgraduate clinical training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally accredited college or university;
2. passed a Department of Public Health (DPH)-prescribed examination; and
3. obtained verification from a supervising licensed MFT that he or she is working toward completing the postgraduate experience requirements for an MFT license.

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**LICENSURE WITHOUT EXAMINATION**

As with MFT licenses under existing law, the bill allows DPH to grant an MFT associate license without examination to MFT associates licensed or certified in another U.S. state, territory, or commonwealth. An applicant can obtain a license in this way if the jurisdiction's licensing standards are equivalent to or higher than Connecticut's. Applicants must have no disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints pending.

**LICENSE RENEWALS**

The MFT associate license is valid for three years and is renewable once during the applicant's birth month. The applicant must (1) submit evidence that he or she is working on completing the postgraduate experience requirements for an MFT license and can successfully do so during the three-year renewal period and (2) pay a \$220 renewal fee.

**BACKGROUND**

By law, to obtain an MFT license, applicants must:

1. complete a (a) graduate degree program specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally accredited college or university or (b) postgraduate clinical training program, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally accredited college or university;
2. complete a supervised practicum or internship with emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised by their degree or clinical program in which they received at least 500 direct clinical hours, including 100 hours of clinical supervision;
3. complete a minimum of 12 months of relevant postgraduate experience, including (a) 1,000 hours of direct client contact offering marital and family therapy services after being awarded a master's degree or doctorate or after the year of postgraduate training and (b) 100 hours of postgraduate clinical supervision provided by a licensed MFT; and

4. pass a DPH-prescribed examination.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    22    Nay   1    (02/24/2016)